



FACT SHEET: Northwestern Colorado Greater Sage-grouse Environmental Impact Statement Alternatives

The EIS looks at a wide range of possible alternatives for maintaining or increasing Greater Sage-Grouse abundance and distribution in northwestern Colorado.

The BLM is required to identify a preferred alternative, but the full range of alternatives is on the table.

The final proposed alternative may include components of several of the alternatives analyzed and will be influenced by public comment.

It is important to provide comments about all four alternatives.

Alternative A: No Action

Alternative A continues current management direction under existing planning documents for all five BLM field offices involved in the planning effort, plus the Routt National Forest.

Alternative B: National Technical Team Measures

Alternative B analyzes management actions outlined in the NTT report. Conservation measures under Alternative B are focused primarily on priority habitat areas that have the highest conservation value to maintaining or increasing Greater Sage-Grouse populations.

Alternative C: Conservation Groups

Alternative C analyzes management recommendations submitted by conservation groups for protection and conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat at the range-wide level.

Alternative D: Colorado Sub-regional

Alternative D, the sub-regional alternative, incorporates local adjustments to the NTT report that were developed with local cooperating agencies. The purpose is to provide a balanced level of protection, restoration, enhancement and use of resources and services to meet ongoing programs and land uses. The BLM has identified Alternative D as its preferred alternative.

Comparative Summary of Alternatives (acres)

	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Closed to livestock grazing	0	0	1,751,600	0
Open to cross-country motorized travel	202,600	202,600	202,600	202,600
Closed to motorized travel	52,600	52,600	52,600	52,600
Closed to oil and gas leasing	100,200	1,347,400	2,473,000	0
Open to oil and gas leasing with No Surface Occupancy Stipulations	350,300	350,300	350,300	1,347,400
Federal minerals recommended for withdrawal	0	1,576,900	1,576,900	0
Unsuitable for surface coal mining and operations	1,670,800	1,576,900	1,576,900	1,576,900 Criteria applied
Greater Sage-Grouse habitat Area of Critical Environment Concern	0	0	926,800	0
Right-of-Way exclusion areas	25,600	926,800	1,751,600	0
Right-of-Way avoidance areas	127,600	0	0	930,500
Right-of-Way avoidance areas for large transmission lines	0	0	0	881,000